

FEAR

MARVEL COMICS GROUP TM



25¢
CC

28
JUNE
02448

ADVENTURE INTO FEAR WITH
THE MAN CALLED **MORBIUS**...

THE LIVING VAMPIRE



CEASE YOUR
MINDLESS
STRUGGLING,
WOMAN!

ONLY **MORBIUS**
CAN SAVE YOU
FROM THIS UNHOLY
HORDE!

BUT WHO
WILL SAVE
YOU
FROM US,
VAMPIRE!



FOLLOW THE LIVING VAMPIRE THRU A DEADLY
**DOORWAY DOWN
INTO HELL!**

Once Michael Morbius was a world-renowned bio-chemist, dying of an unknown blood disease—and desperately searching for a CURE. He found that cure—but, in turn, it afflicted him with a CURSE far worse than any possible disease; the curse of the blood-sucking night-beast; the curse of...THE LIVING VAMPIRE!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE MAN CALLED **MORBIUS!**™

DOUG MOENCH
WRITER

FRANK ROBBINS
ARTIST

VINCE COLETTA
INKER

TOM ORZECOWSKI, letterer
DON WARFIELD, colorist

LEN WEIN
EDITOR

the DOORWAY SCREAMING INTO

HELL!

LAST ISSUE:
IN A DESERTED MANSION
OUTSIDE BOSTON, MORBIUS
FACED A GUN HELD BY
SIMON STROUD, EX-CIA
AGENT AND NOW SUPERNATURAL
TROUBLESHOOTER. URGED BY
HIS FIANCEE MARTINE, MORBIUS
CHOSE FLIGHT OVER DEATH
AND DIVED THROUGH THE
MANSION WINDOW
TO SCOOP THE
NIGHT WINDS...

HE RECEIVED A
BULLET FOR HIS
EFFORTS... AND
NOW, MORTALLY
WOUNDED--

KRAK!

KRAK!

WAP! SNAP!

-- THE LIVING
VAMPIRE CRASHES.

PAIN SLICES THROUGH HIS SIDE
LIKE HEATED BARBED WIRE...



... AND MORBIUS
GRAPPLES FOR
BALANCE WITH
HIS LAST OUNCE
OF DIMINLING
STRENGTH...

...BEFORE LOSING ALL, TO THE VOID



A BACK ROOM AT BOSTON POLICE HEADQUARTERS, HOMICIDE
DIVISION: WHERE STROUD AND POLICE CHIEF WARNER HOLD
A CONVERSATION AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF HISSING...

SO IF THIS MORBIUS IS THE
ONE WHO'S BEEN SUCKING
BOSTON'S NIGHTLIFE DRY,
WHERE DOES THIS FEMALE
VAMPIRE FIT IN?



ONE OF HIS
VICTIMS, MORBIUS
PUT THE BITE
ON HER, AND
SHE POPPED
BACK FROM
THE GRAVE TO
JOIN HIM.

AND AGAIN, MARTINE PROTESTS.

BUT I TELL YOU THAT'S IMPOS-
SIBLE! MICHAEL'S AFFLICTION IS
MEDICAL... NOT SUPERNATURAL.
IT'S A SIMULATION OF VAMPIRISM--
HE ISN'T CAPABLE
OF TRANSFERRING
VAMPIRIC
PROPERTIES--!



THERE'S GOT TO
BE SOME OTHER
EXPLANATION.



Y'KNOW, NOW THAT I
THINK ABOUT IT... SHE
MAY HAVE SOMETHING
THERE. THAT HOUSE SHE
RENTED FOR THIS MORBIUS
CHARACTER... THE OLD
MASON ESTATE...

IT'S
SUPPOSED
TO BE
HAUNTED.



SO I'VE HEARD
MUMBLED, BUT SPOOKS
AND VAMPIRES DON'T
MIX.

MAYBE NOT.
BUT STILL... THE
WAY OLD LADY
MASON
INSISTED...

NOW YOU'RE
MUMBLED,
WARNER.

GUESS I AM AT THAT. OKAY, HERE'S THE BEANS-- I'LL SPILL 'EM AND YOU SEE IF YOU CAN TURN 'EM INTO SOMETHING MORE THAN HOT AIR...



"LETICIA MASN LIVED IN THAT HOUSE FOR EIGHTY-TWO YEARS, UNTIL SENILITY CAUGHT UP WITH HER AND SHE LOST COUNT..."



"THE WAY SHE TELLS IT, IT HAPPENED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, AND SHATTERED HER PRECIOUS BEAUTY SLEEP..."

"SHE CALLS 'EM HAUNTS... HAUNTS WITH EYES... CLAIMS THEY SURROUNDED HER BED..."



"...AND SPOKE TO HER-- WARNED HER OF SOMETHING. END OF THE WORLD. IF I REMEMBER RIGHT, AND ACCORDING TO THESE 'HAUNTS'... EITHER LETICIA PLAYED MESSIAH, OR EARTH KISSED ITSELF RIGHT DOWN THE TUBE..."

"BUT OLD AGE DOES THINGS TO AN OLD MAID. SO WE DIDN'T BELIEVE HER, OF COURSE... AND NEITHER DID THE SHRINK WHO WAS CALLED IN BY HER DAUGHTER JENNIFER..."





AND THE WOUND...
IT-- IT'S... GONE--!
COMPLETELY
VANISHED..



BUT HOW--? HOW COULD IT HAPPEN?!
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE... UNLESS... THE
DISEASE-- THE BLOOD DISEASE WHICH
HAS TURNED ME INTO A LIVING VAMPIRE
... COULD IT ALSO HAVE IMBUED MY
SYSTEM WITH SOME SORT OF MIRACU-
LOUS RECOUPERATIVE POWERS... SOME
FORM OF TISSUE REGENERATION...?



BUT ALL
SPECULATION
EVAPORATES
AS MORBIUS
REMEMBERS--



MARTINE--!

NEVER SHOULD HAVE
LEFT HER WITH THAT
FANATIC WHO CALLS
HIMSELF STROUD--!

IF HE'S
HARMED
HER...

AND LIKE
AN AVENGING
BOLT OF
FURY, MORBIUS
LAUNCHES HIM-
SELF FROM
TREELIMB
TO WIND--



--AND STREAKS UPWARD
FOR THE SHATTERED
MANSION WINDOW--

GONE--! BOTH
OF THEM! THEN
HE'S TAKEN HER
SOMEWHERE...
DOWNSTAIRS...



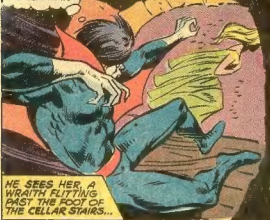
RAGE FILLS THE
LIVING VAMPIRE
NOW... HOT,
UNTHINKING RAGE--
THE SEETHING
ANGER OF A
MADDED
BEAST...



NOW GONE
BERSERK.

HE BOLTS DOWN THE ANCIENT MANSION'S DUST-CHOKED CORRIDORS, SURGES INTO ROOM AFTER ROOM, SHRIEKING HER NAME, HEARING ONLY ECHOES, SEARCHING AND SHRIEKING SOME MORE ...UNTIL--

MARTINE...?



HE SEES HER, A WRAITH FLITTING PAST THE FOOT OF THE CELLAR STAIRS...

...DOES NOT TURN... AS SHE SLOWLY, SOMNOLENTLY WALKS DOWN THE CELLAR CORRIDOR ... TO A DOOR...



...A DOOR WHICH OPENS ONTO A BLINDING EFFULGENCE OF LIGHT...

...AND THEN CLOSES...

...BEHIND HER.



MARTINE--!!

AND HE PURSUES THE WRAITH... PURSUES MARTINE... HIS ONLY HOPE FOR SANITY AND SOLACE IN A WORLD GONE CRIMSON MAD WITH THE LUST FOR BLOOD...

MARTINE--
WAIT!!

BUT SHE DOES NOT REPLY...



FEVERISH AND DEMENTED, MORBIUS GRASPS THE RUST-CRUSTED HANDLE...



...AND WRENCHES THE DOOR OPEN.

BUT THIS TIME IT DOES NOT OPEN ONTO A BLINDING EFFULGENCE OF LIGHT.

NOR DOES IT OPEN ONTO A VISION OF MARTINE.

IT OPENS ONTO... A BLANK WALL.



BUT THE DEMENTIA
DEMANDS THAT
NOTHING WILL
SEPARATE HIM
FROM MARTINE...



...SO HE STEPS BACK...

... AND LAUNCHES HIS PITIFULLY LIGHT,
HOLLOW-BONED BODY STRAIGHT
TOWARD A WALL OF SOLID BRICK...

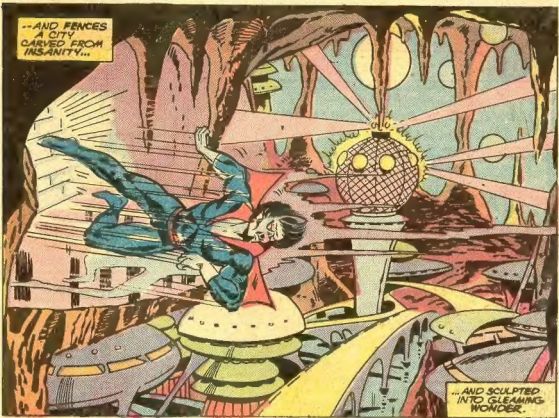


... AND
PASSES
STRAIGHT
THROUGH.



THE WALL--
IT'S MADE
OF LIGHT--!

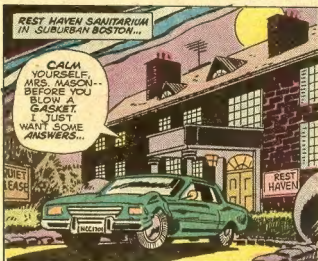
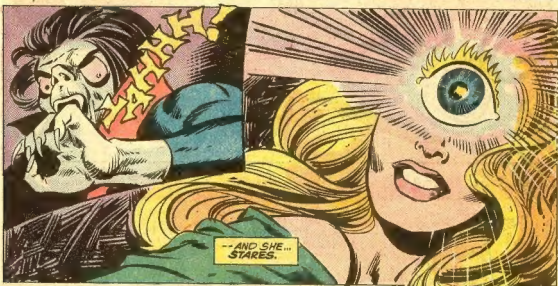
--AND FENCES
A CITY
CARVED FROM
INSANITY...



... AND SCULPTED
INTO GLEAMING
WONDER.

AND ON A BRIDGE
SPANNING THE WONDER...

M-MARTINE...?



NOT UNTIL I
MAKE SOME
BEANS
OUT'VE YOUR
HOT AIR.

I'LL SHOOT ALL RIGHT-- I'LL
SHOOT ONE THAT WILL MAKE
YOUR SISSIFIED LONG HAIR
STAND ON END, YOUNG MAN!

SHOOT.

MY HOUSE IS A GATEWAY
TO THE DIMENSION CALLED
HELL. THE HALUNTS
TOLD ME SO--

--LITTLE
BEASTIES
WITH ONLY
ONE EYE
EACH!

THEY CAME TO WARN ME THAT THE MASTER
OF HELL IS GOING TO USE MY HOUSE TO
ENTER THIS WORLD AND CONQUER IT.
THEY SAY HE'S ALREADY SENT ADVANCE
EMISSARIES-- CHANGELINGS WHICH WE
SHALL SEE AS WHATEVER FORM WILL
MOST TERRIFY US AT A GIVEN MOMENT--
AS WHAT WE MOST EXPECT TO SEE,
BUT DON'T WANT TO SEE.

THEY
WANT ME TO
WARN THE
WORLD--
BECAUSE THEY
LIVE IN HELL--
THEY KNOW
WHAT IT'S
LIKE!

BUT ... NO ONE
WILL LISTEN...

THANKS,
MRS. MASON.
YOU MAY BE
CRAZY,
BUT YOUR
DELIVERY'S
GOT STYLE.

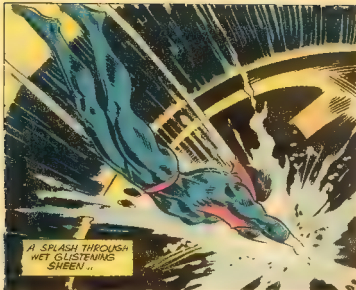
MARTINE
BECKONS
TO HIM.
MARTINE
CALLS.
MARTINE IS
LOVELY, AND
SO TEMPTING.
THERE IS
NOTHING
BUT MARTINE.
THE WORLD
IS MARTINE...

YES,
MY LOVE...
I'M
COMING...

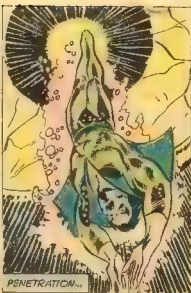
YES,
MARTINE...

YES,
MY--

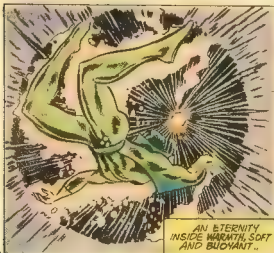
NOOOO!!



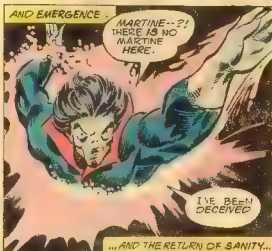
A SPLASH THROUGH
WET GLISTENING
SHEEN ..



PENETRATION...



AN ETERNITY
INSIDE WARMTH, SOFT
AND BUOYANT ..

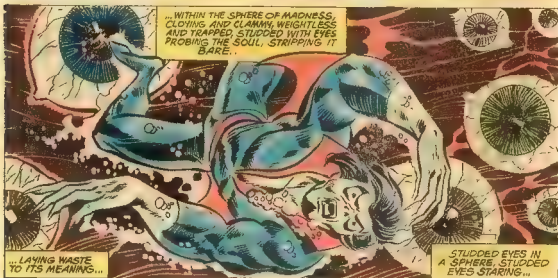


AND EMERGENCE ..

MARTINE-- ?!
THERE IS NO
MARTINE
HERE.

I'VE BEEN
DECEIVED

... AND THE RETURN OF SANITY...

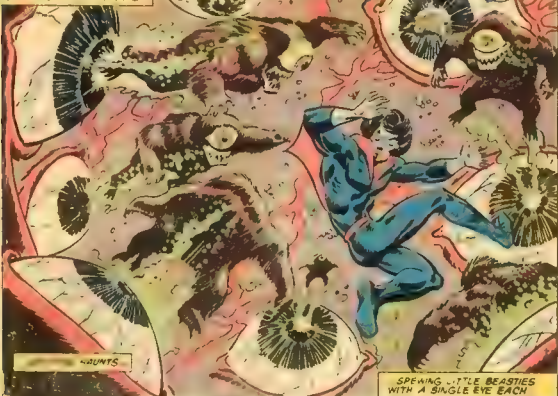


... WITHIN THE SPHERE OF MADNESS,
CLOYING AND CLAMMY, WEIGHTLESS
AND TRAPPED, STUDDED WITH EYES
PROBING THE SOUL, STRIPPING IT
BARE ..

... LAYING WASTE
TO ITS MEANING...

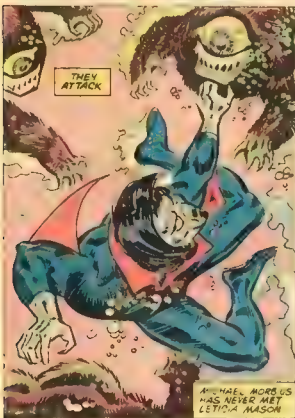
STUDDED EYES IN
A SPHERE, STUDDED
EYES STARING...

STUDDED EYES SPITTING



HUNTS

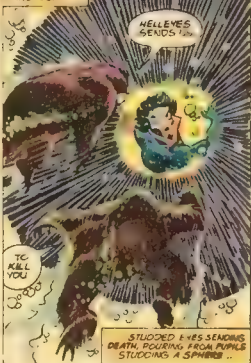
SPewing LITTLE BEASTIES
WITH A SINGLE EYE EACH



THEY
ATTACK

MICHAEL MORBUS
HAS NEVER MET
LETICIA MASON

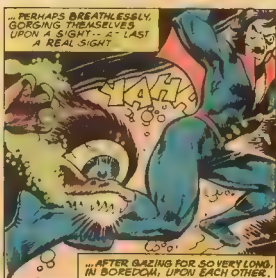
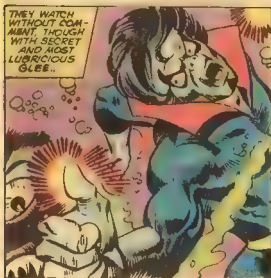
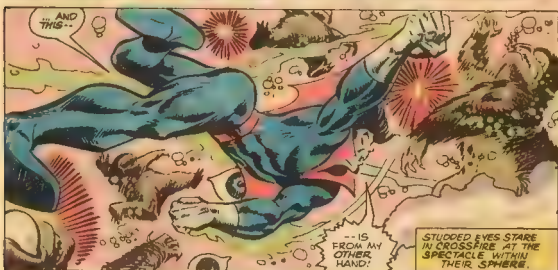
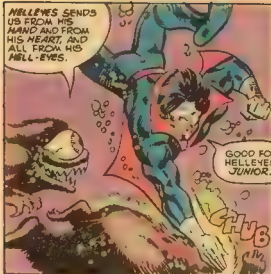
IF HE HAD, HE
WOULD HAVE
CALLED HER
CRAZY
AND LEFT



HELLEYES
SENDS

TO
KILL
YOU

STUDDED EYES SENDING
DEATH, POURING FROM PURPLE
STUDDING A SPHERE ..



MAIL IT TO MORBIUS

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 575 MADISON AVE. N.Y.C. 10022

Morbius-mongers,

It never fails—I'm always fascinated by god-themes in comics, and Daemond's saga was no different. "A Stillborn Genesis" (good title) in #26 snared my unwavering attention with Daemond's second balloon on the splash page, and held it right through the end. I've read elsewhere that you're going back up to 18 pages with this feature, and that's certainly a relief, since you certainly can't imagine we readers get off on reprints from ADVENTURE INTO MYSTERY, circa 1895. We don't.

However, the art—now that's something else again, and something not so impressive. Robbins' work is entirely too reminiscent of newspaper comic strips; ill-defined, caricatureistic, it has no place in a Marvel comic book. Please—no more!

In the words of a once-famous vampire, Keep on Suckin'!
Len Graham, Marvin, SD

In the letters column of #27, we mentioned that Frank Robbins' advent on the Morbius strip has been "greeted with universal cheer"; however, in the interim 'twixt that issue and this, the usual balance of Marvel's opinioners has prevailed. So this time, it's Frank's turn to take some knocks. But Doug is not entirely spared the withering scrutiny of the critical eye, as witness the next letter—

Dear Marvel:

I am of the opinion that your Morbius strip has deteriorated greatly. In this letter I will try to point out how this strip has gotten worse and how it can get better.

The Art: From the very beginning it seems that Morbius has been a strip where you would introduce new artists. (excluding the great Gil Kane, who is not any amateur). Paul Gulacy started off Morbius in a very nice manner and I bought the book only because I thought Jim Steranko had come back. The next new artist was L. Dominquez. He handed in a fantastic job and I hope you can get him to replace Frank Robbins. The same holds true with Craig Russell; however, do not take him off K!llraven, where he is doing a better job than Neal Adams was doing. Now, finally, we come to Frank Robbins. His artwork just does not suit Morbius and he should be replaced as soon as possible. Oh, and before I forget, try to keep Morbius' flesh dead on the cover.

The Writing: All I have to talk about here are the characterizations and a few facets of the plot. First on the agenda is Daemond. Where are all his demons and incantations? As soon as Doug took over, they were replaced by a bunch of people hiding behind cheap masks and a lot of bolts of bedazzlement.

Second, the Caretakers. I thought they were noble beings

truly believing in their cause, but Doug made them power-mad individuals.

And lastly, the ending. What started out as a power struggle between Daemond and the Caretakers culminated in a little girl saving the world. The ending seemed rushed, as if Doug wanted to go on to new things. I hope he can work better using his own characters and situations. If I may suggest something: Let him explore the more scientific parts of the strip. The horror is well taken care of in VAMPIRE TALES.

Edmund Pribitkin Jr.
Lancaster, Pa. 17603

Now that you've had time to see some of Doug's stories using his own characters and situations (including Simon Stroud, whom Doug first introduced in the MAN-WOLF strip), let us know what you think and if your opinions have changed.

You see, Ed, it's often hard enough for a new writer or artist on a strip to win the readers over with a single issue, especially when the previous writer or artist was doing a bang-up job (as Steve Gerber was on Morbius): but it's even harder when—for instance—a writer has to script the concluding episode in a story connected by the departing author, as Doug did with the Caretakers saga.

Therefore, we think the Devil-May-Care lad did wonders, and now that he's on his own—watch out! As we're sure you will, Ed.

Dear Len, Doug, Frank and the other Frank:

Maybe I'm overreacting, but the Gerber Moench transition has been abominable. Steve had a concept of Morbius' character, and a definite SF slant; Doug just moves everything too fast for anything to hang together. The role of Tara was never even hinted at, nor can it be substantiated in past episodes. This is SF, not horror, Doug, and some logic must prevail.

I won't comment on the art, on the assumption that Frank Robbins is moving on to things more appropriate (loved his Cap!); I'm waiting to see if Doug has any direction in mind for the strip. I hope so...

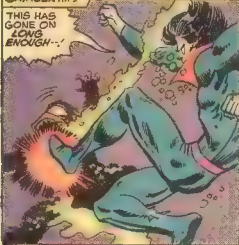
Roger Kloress
2739 E. 65th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11234

Aw c'mon, Roger, cut us some slack—by now you've read the answer to the previous letter, and have had the opportunity to read a couple more issues of Doug's Morbius. In other words, you've had a chance to see the direction in which Monsieur Moench is taking the series; and now that you have, please share your thoughts with us.

That goes for the rest of you out there, too. We'll be waitin', right here, next ish!

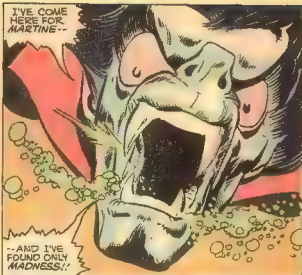
DO THE EYES CRY... NOW THAT THE HAUNTS
FROM THEIR SOULS FALL BEFORE MORBIUS'
SAVAGERY...?

THIS HAS
GONE ON
LONG
ENOUGH--!

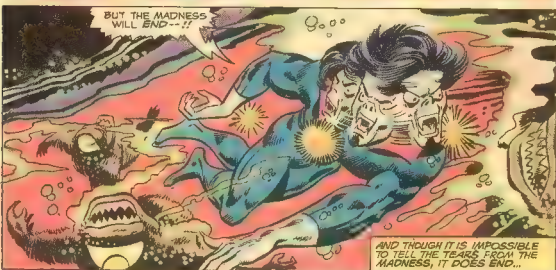


I'VE COME
HERE FOR
MARTINE--

--AND I'VE
FOUND ONLY
MADNESS!!



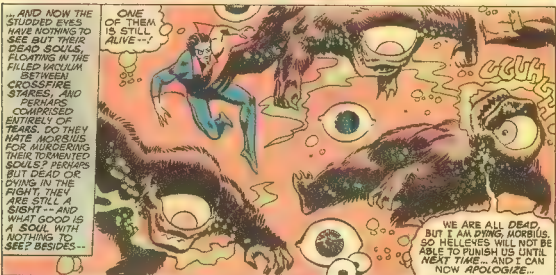
BUT THE MADNESS
WILL END--!!



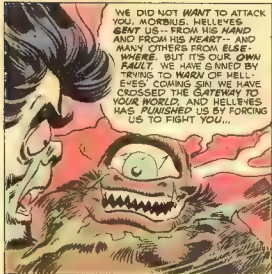
AND THOUGH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE
TO TELL THE TEARS FROM THE
MADNESS, IT DOES END...

AND NOW THE
STUDD EYES
HAVE NOTHING TO
SEE BUT THEIR
DEAD SOULS,
FLOATING IN THE
FILLED VACUUM
BETWEEN
CROSSFIRE
STARES, AND
PERHAPS
COMPRISED
ENTIRELY OF
TEARS. DO THEY
HATE MORBIUS
FOR MURDERING
THEIR TORMENTED
SOULS? PERHAPS
BUT DEAD OR
DYING IN THE
FIGHT, THEY
ARE STILL A
SIGHT-- AND
WHAT GOOD IS
A SOUL WITH
NOTHING TO
SEE? BESIDES--

ONE
OF THEM
IS STILL
ALIVE--!



WE ARE ALL DEAD,
BUT I AM DYING, MORBIUS.
SO HELLEYES WILL NOT BE
ABLE TO PUNISH US UNTIL
NEXT TIME... AND I CAN
NOW APOLOGIZE...



WE DID NOT WANT TO ATTACK YOU, MORBIUS. HELLEYES SENT US-- FROM HIS HAND AND FROM HIS HEART-- AND MANY OTHERS FROM ELSEWHERE. BUT IT'S OUR OWN FAULT. WE HAVE SINNED BY TRYING TO WARN OF HELLEYES' COMING SIN. WE HAVE CROSSED THE GATEWAY TO YOUR WORLD, AND HELLEYES HAS PUNISHED US BY FORCING US TO FIGHT YOU...

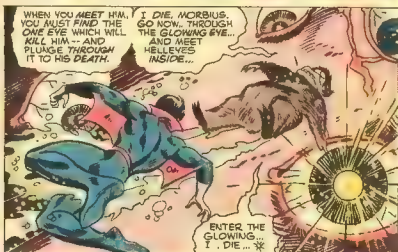


TELL ME... HAVE I GONE MAD? HAVE I DIED FROM MY WOUND? WHO IS HELLEYES...?

YOU WILL MEET HIM, MORBIUS. HE IS THE MASTER OF THIS WORLD CALLED HELL. AND YOU MUST KILL HIM OR YOUR WORLD WILL DIE AND COME TO HELL, FOR HELLEYES WISHES TO SPILL THIS WORLD INTO YOURS



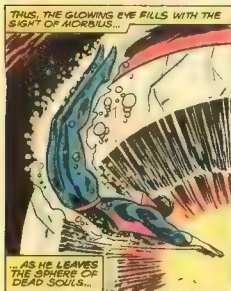
BUT REMEMBER: ONLY ONE EYE WILL KILL HIM. ALL OTHERS LEAD TO HELL-- DIFFERENT HELLS-- INFINITIES OF HELL



WHEN YOU MEET HIM, YOU MUST FIND THE ONE EYE WHICH WILL KILL HIM-- AND PLUNGE THROUGH IT TO HIS DEATH.

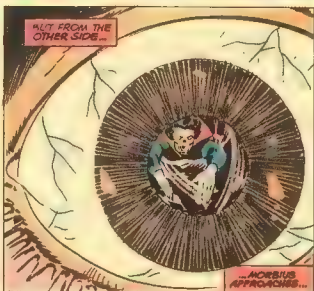
I DIE, MORBIUS. GO NOW... THROUGH THE GLOWING EYE... AND MEET HELLEYES INSIDE...

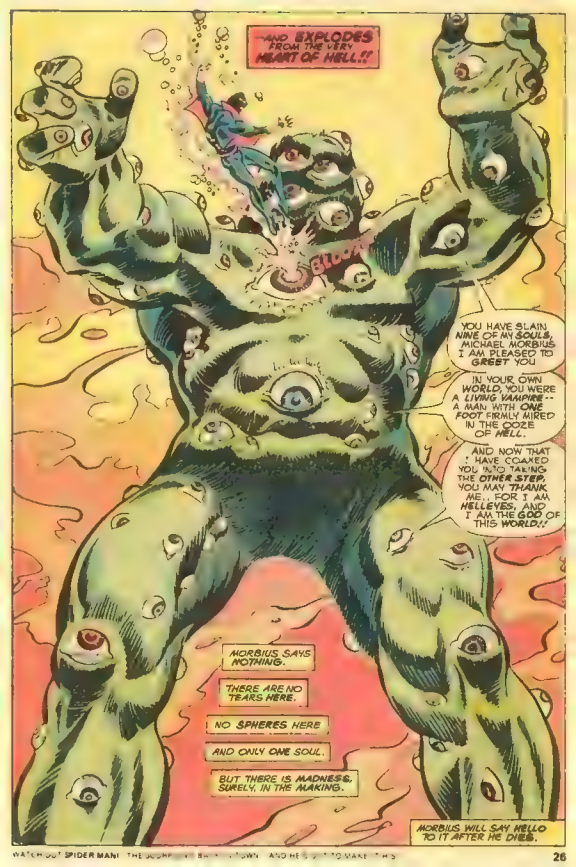
ENTER THE GLOWING... I . DIE ✱



THUS, THE GLOWING EYE FILLS WITH THE SIGHT OF MORBIUS...

...AS HE LEAVES THE SPHERE OF DEAD SOULS...





—AND EXPLODES
FROM THE VERY
HEART OF HELL!!

YOU HAVE SLAIN
NINE OF MY SOULS,
MICHAEL MORBIUS.
I AM PLEASED TO
GREET YOU.

IN YOUR OWN
WORLD, YOU WERE
A LIVING VAMPIRE—
A MAN WITH ONE
FOOT FIRMLY HIRED
IN THE COZE
OF HELL.

AND NOW THAT
I HAVE COAXED
YOU INTO TAKING
THE OTHER STEP,
YOU MAY THANK
ME, FOR I AM
HELLEVES, AND
I AM THE GOD OF
THIS WORLD!!

MORBIUS SAYS
NOTHING.

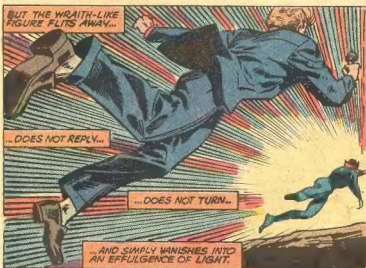
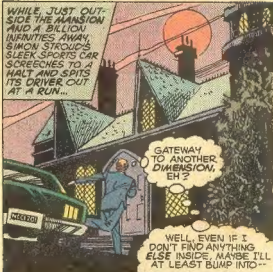
THERE ARE NO
TEARS HERE.

NO SPHERES HERE.

AND ONLY ONE SOUL.

BUT THERE IS MADNESS,
SURELY, IN THE MAKING.

MORBIUS WILL SAY HELLO
TO IT AFTER HE DIES.



A CACOPHONOUS COLLECTION OF CAPTIVATING CAPSULE COMMENTS
CALCULATED TO CORRAL YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

This is it! The recognition we've all been waiting for! You've read movie reviews, book reviews, record reviews, right? Well, now at last, the nation's top literary critics have begun reviewing comics— or, at least, a book about Marvel Comics! I know you're as anxious to read their verdict as I was, so without any further ado, here's the first batch of notices for the **ORIGINS OF MARVEL COMICS**—

Ray Bradbury, in the **LOS ANGELES TIMES**: "Stan Lee's new volume is the very stuff for you. It is, as he puts it, 'a pictorial tonic to relieve the awesome affliction that threatens us all: the endlessly spreading virus of too much reality in a world that is losing its heroes.' Stan's book is to me a better light bulb. Frivolous? Perhaps. Frightening? Sometimes. With hidden meanings. Stan Lee's comics are better than Lichtenstein can ever hope to be." **THE DAILY ENTERPRISE-SUN**: "Comicbook heroes are making a comeback. Nowhere is that comeback put together so attractively as in this winner by Stan Lee. It's the best of the comic collections." **SAN**

FRANCISCO EXAMINER: "The name Stan Lee is known to millions of comic-book fans all over the world. Marvel Comics sell in dozens of countries at a rate of 75 million a year." **PLAYBOY**: "Very much fun. People have written graduate papers on just such themes, and for them— and all other true believers— we're heading for the newstand." **CUE**: "These are fairy tales for older people. They are fun, like Vonnegut and Tolkien. The last place where you can recapture the fantasy— the wonder—" **BOOK-OF-THE-MONTH CLUB NEWS**: "A snappy new book. One of the good things about Lee's **ORIGINS** is that for each hero discussed he reproduces the subject's first adventure story along with a more recent episode." **WOMAN'S WEAR DAILY**: "Lee— might almost be a movie director using the storyboard approach." **FAMILY WEEKLY**: "Stan Lee is in 'big time' publishing." **THE PITT NEWS**: "This work— is integral to the development of each of the fictional characters created by Marvel. It is a genealogy, a bible. The greatest criticism of the book is that it is not enough." **BERGEN COUNTY RECORD**: "**ORIGINS** holds

one's interest— Lee's writing is as colorful as the book's reprints of historic back issues. What also holds the reader is its recounting of the feeling that went into the creation of the superheroes." **THE RUTGERS DAILY TARGUM**: "The one you've been waiting for. The one book you can't afford to miss!" **PHILADELPHIA BULLETIN**: "Stan Lee, guiding genius of 'Marvelmania' in comic books, has included some gloriously marvel-maniacal comics in this sampler. Even adults, especially gallery-goers, should enjoy the artistry of Marvel Comics books; far and away the leaders in their field." **CHICAGO NEWS**: "True believers, step right up!"

And that's only a sample of the hundreds that are pouring in! Who says comics aren't an idea whose time has come? Who says your blushing Bullpen hasn't achieved the year's most stupendous literary breakthrough? Who says this isn't the Marvel Age of Comics? And before some wise guy shouts "I say!", I'm cuttin' out— (It's time to take a troll to tea!)

Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM! What's that, Tigers? You say you've been silently scanning those filling letters pages you've become so voraciously addicted to while reading our titanic titles to these many Marvelous years, and you've yet to find the startling new **MARVEL VALUE STAMPS** we've been promising to toss at ya for the past few months? Well, don't fret, Fearless Ones, your eagle eyes aren't failing you—it's just that the ever-unpredictable inmates of your batty Marvel Bullpen have decided to go all out as usual in their quest to provide the most royally rapturous recreation possible for True Believers everywhere. When the now-legendary **SECOND SERIES** of **MVSTAMPS** finally assaults your wide-open orbs in just a few short weeks, they will stun you, they will shock you, they will leave you utterly speechless—for in all your years as madcap Marvelites, you will never in your memory have seen the like of what we have in store for you! And remember, even though the concept is so daringly different, you'll still be able to treat yourself to the same glamorous goodies and more when all one hundred startling stamps are at last in your pulse-pounding possession! Truth to tell, we wouldn't do all this if we didn't love ya!

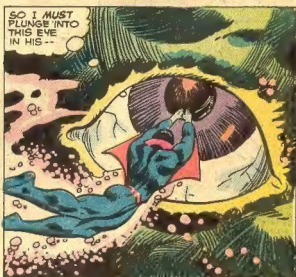
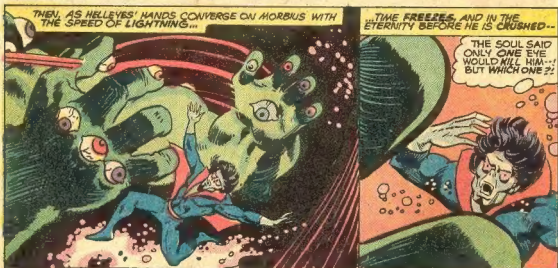
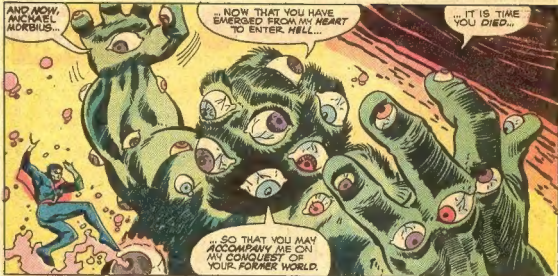
ITEM! Everyone here has heard the name **DAMON RUNYON**. He's the scintillating author whose singular view of the screwy city called New York has delighted the hearts of millions everywhere, and birthed such world-renowned productions as "Guys and

Dolls" and "Pocketful of Miracles." A genius, right? So who'd ever have thought that **TONY (The Tiger) ISABELLA**, bare-faced youth from Cleveland, would someday move to Fun City and directly into the penthouse apartment once owned by the illustrious Mr. Runyon himself. We won't say that this startling fact has had any sort of adverse effect on the Tigerish One, but we've noticed a disturbing tendency for names like "Sky Masterson" and "Apple Annie" to pop up in Tony's scripts of late. A subtle influence—or perhaps more? (Wow, what a strange idea—the **GHOST RIDER** scripted by a ghost writer!)

ITEM! Hey, hope you're one of the lucky ones who've been latching onto the minor masterpieces Judo **JIM STARLIN** has been turning out every sixty days on the all-new, all-improved **WARLOCK** strip. As far as we can tell, **STRANGE TALES** fanatics everywhere are flipping their collective corks over the spectacular Mr. Starlin's dynamic drawings (not to mention his sizzling scripting and capricious coloring). In fact, the only discouraging words we've heard at all thus far have come from a gregarious grey gargoyle called **The Golem**—and we suspect that he might be just a wee bit prejudiced! Also, let's not forget Dynamic **DAVE COCKRUM**, whose fan dream of a lifetime came true when he was chosen to illustrate the equally-all-new, equally-all-improved adventures of the X-cruelingly X-citing **X-MEN**, who are currently cavorting in their brand-new **GIANT-SIZE** mag!

Who says this ain't the Marvel Age of Sensational Second Chances?

ITEM! And just so you don't think we're sitting on our slightly-wilted laurels, we're gonna let you in on a few searing secrets! Listen closely now... we're gonna whisper 'cause we don't want the competition to hear the names of our newest stars! They'll be popping up in their own spanking-new features in the next few months—and we want you to be prepared for 'em! So look out for **BLOODSTONE**—he stalks the shadowed lands WHERE **MONSTERS DWELL!** And the sinister **SCARECROW** will be waiting for you in the **DEAD OF NIGHT!** The mind-boggling **MODRED** the **MYSTIC** will be battling arcane forces in the back of **GIANT-SIZE WEREWOLF!** And, lastly, prepare yourself for the coming of **SKULL THE SLAYER**, a character with a story-line so powerful, we haven't decided where we're gonna present it just yet. Hang in there, Pilgrim—the best is yet to come. (And if you have a few paltry shackles left over, you might want to pick up the first pulse-pounding issue of a little item called **GIANT-SIZE INVADERS!** It features the all-new adventures of **CAPTAIN AMERICA** and **BUCKY**, the savage **SUB-MARINER**, and the Original **HUMAN TORCH** and **TORO**, fighting for freedom in the torrid early days of World War Two! It's a concept so off-beat, you're just gonna have to love it!) And on that note, we return you to your regularly-scheduled Marvel mag...





NEXT ISSUE: **FIRST HELL AND LAST!**